Literature.

The Present State of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England. By A. WELBY PUGIN, Architect. With thirty-six Illustrations. London: Charles Dolman.

THIS book, as the title-page sets forth, and as nearly the whole architectural world knows—professors and amateurs—is a republication from the *Dublin Review*, and we greet it in this shape, collected as it is from the two numbers of that work into the one volume now before us. To over-rate the importance of the subject, or the way in which Mr. Pugin has handled it, would be difficult—for this and the other late productions of his pen and pencil have been adopted (irrespectively of his particular religious views and objects), as text matter in the grand question that is now agitating this country as to the revival or adoption of a congruous system of ecclesiastical architecture. Acknowledged or not acknowledged, he is the virtual pope or chief pontiff in these matters, and his bulls are received and deferred to as the canonical ordinances of the orthodox. Whether it may be contended that there was a *silent* voice giving previous utterance and effect to the whole or most of what Mr. Pugin has so loudly promulgated, and thus to argue that Mr. Pugin is not a leader but a creature of the movement, is not for us to heed or care about—and if it be contended that Mr. Pugin has been a little too severe in some of his strictures on the present state of architectural art, and occasionally unfair, as some allege, in his comparisons, it must still be conceded that he had, or those whom he has been so forward and so zealous to vindicate had, endured an ample amount of provocation. While we were boasting ourselves the enlightened, the intelligent, the advanced, and sneering at the old-fashioned wisdom of our ancestors, it was enough to provoke the bile in a less phlegmatic champion than Mr. Pugin, and to give him a sort of malicious pleasure in establishing a *contrast* which told all against us, and all in favour of those whom we had so unjustly, and we may say, impertinently maligned.

But in proceeding to a notice of his present work, we must proceed reverently and deliberately; it is so full upon the point of precedent, and so thoroughly engrosses the subject upon which it treats, that we should deem it a species of profanation, not so much of the book as of the subject, were we to skip it over with a mere running commentary, in the way that is ordinarily pursued in these cases.

Mr. Pugin's long intimacy with the subject on which he treats, "Ecclesiastical Architecture," has made him perforce acquainted with the most critical niceties in that particular era or style which he now brings before us—we mean the Gothic. It is well enough known that he insists upon it that there is no other church style, nothing capable of being so considered; and we fear that the tendency of his remarks is to lead to the inference that no other church style can be moulded or invented—yes, *invented*, we repeat the word, because we perceive in all his writings that he seems to inculcate a special abhorrence of every attempt at invention; indeed, he somewhere says that the best we can do is to merely restore or revive. Now this would be the emulation of our ancestors in a grievous spirit of rigid formality; it would be to affect the dry bones, and not the animated spirit which gave life and beauty to their every effort and production. It is to blunder at the very threshold of our imitation, to overlook the principle which guided them, and which, as we have just said, was the life of these workings; to be the mere machines, reproducing the forms and neglecting the essence. The great architects and the artists of former days pursued not this method; they were inventors; every day advancing on novelties, every day pushing forward for the new and varied, but they were guided by a spirit which we have not yet, we fear, learnt to appreciate; there was a depth of knowledge in constructive science, a profundity of feeling, and a pure devotion for their art, that made them, when they turned it to the highest purposes, give it its highest dignity. Even so may it be with us, when we have discussed the question in the true spirit of philosophy, that knowing what we love, we may love what we know.

We said that Mr. Pugin's works had formed a sort of *text* matter for others, and it must be in some sort the same with us. We shall recur to this book again and again, and if no objection starts itself, or be started, we must call from its illustrations for the same purpose that Mr. Pugin sets them, to accompany his words; they are indeed the music, very beautiful in many instances, and we shall have great pride in transcribing fairly, and for the legitimate ends of his and our common object, such as appear to us to most merit the public commendation. In the meantime we recommend our friends to furnish themselves with the book, and accompany us in our readings and comments.

Literary and Scientific Register and Almanac for 1843. By J. W. G. GUTCH, M.R.C.S., &c.—London: Lumley, Chancery Lane.

WE regret not to have had our attention called at an earlier stage to this valuable little pocket-book, although from the permanent character of the information contained in it, its usefulness is not restricted to the year of its publication. It is a diary and almanac, it is true, but it is something more; it treats on Acoustics, Agriculture, Architecture, Arithmetic, Logarithms, Building, Gardening, Geology, Hydraulics, Mathematics, Mechanics, Optics, Painting, Photography, &c., which we instance as being more or less allied to the building art; but there are many other subjects treated of, and many useful tables, and altogether we have found it a compendious and valuable book of reference, and as such can confidently recommend it to our readers.

WATER.

PASSAGE THROUGH LEADEN PIPES.

IT is, doubtless, within the recollection of most of our readers that Professor Clark, of Marischal College, Aberdeen, some months since patented a process for rendering water "less impure and less hard" than the water which is supplied to the London public by the existing water companies; and in a series of lectures, which he delivered at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, deprecated the apathy of those companies, and expatiated on the supineness of their subscribers in submitting to the impure stuff that was meted out to them. Now the Professor's aspersions were well meant, and there was certainly a great deal of truth in what he said, still there exists in London and elsewhere an evil of importance, which a great many families suffer, having in their own power a remedy; and we shall point out in this paper a case which teaches us that it is necessary for our welfare to bestow a little care and thought on such a matter; and we would ask, in what can our reasoning faculties be more judiciously exerted than on the subject of health. When we reflect that every animal on the earth, from the *genus homo* down to the most insignificant living being, is dependent on the "crystal fountain," it certainly is a subject requiring our especial attention; we will leave out of the question the whole race of tee-totalers, brandy-and-water-drinkers, &c., as a class of the community capable of taking care of themselves; but we ought not to forget that the poor domestic animal is at the mercy of the ignorant as well as of the intelligent, and can have no means of protecting itself. When we look at beautiful wild nature, and see the stag roaming at his leisure among his hundred companions, we cannot help reflecting on the happy state of those noble creatures; they require no doctors, Nature's instinct is their only counsellor.

> They crop the flowering shrub,
> And drink of the pure stream,
> Which Nature, in her bounty, has dispensed,

without danger; but let us look at the condition of the horse, the dog, &c. &c., how different is their case; for them we must have our veterinary surgeon, &c.,—and why? because we take them from their state of nature, and having done so, leave them without considering either their comfort or health.

Again, to our nobler selves, our own human race; contrast nine-tenths of the civilized world with the beings of unsophisticated nature; instead of the *sound, pithy* stamina of the former, we find them healthful and vigorous, both in body and mind. No gout, no dispepsia, no pirthora, no necessity for those abominable pharmaceutical preparations, blue pills and black draughts—no brandy,—he seeks his antidote amongst the native wilds; in fine, there is no living thing in creation not dependent on water. We apprehend that the generality of our readers are aware that the more pure the water, the larger is the quantity of carbonic acid gas contained in it, giving it a greater susceptibility for any impurity from the surface over which it has to pass, and a capability for certain chemical action on different substances, forming what is technically called a salt of the metal with which it may be brought in contact; and yet we find in use, for general purposes, this very application, in the form of lead pipes, tanks, cisterns, &c., &c., either as a means of conveying of water from the supply to our own "locale," or as a reservoir for our own domestic purposes; a practice which cannot be too much deprecated; the action is this:—

The carbonic acid in the water enters into combination with the lead and forms a salt, called carbonate of lead, which is in itself a poisonous compound; and, in all human probability, is the cause of many of the ailments "which our flesh is heir to." Now how much of this inconvenience might be remedied by simply taking notice of the means which nature adopts in the transmit of her gifts; does she supply us through aqueducts of pewter? No. Neither need we adopt such a proceeding: the slate, the stone, or the brick, as a cistern, and a wooden trough, or other innocuous material, for its supply, would be all that is required. On an analysis of some water from one of the departments of the Royal Establishments (which was procured for the laboratory of the Royal Polytechnic Institution for the purpose) being made, it was found that in the first sample, which was taken from the pure spring, the water was perfectly free from any trace of lead. This spring, being at some considerable distance from the place where it is required (viz., the kennel of her Majesty's hounds), it is conveyed thence through pipes of lead; on the second sample (mind, taken from the pipe!) being submitted to analysis, the quantity of lead contained therein amounted to 1·312 grs., or approaching 1½ grs. of carbonate of lead to the imperial gallon of water; there can, therefore, be but strong grounds for presuming that the disease called kennel lameness in sporting phraseology, and which now rages amongst the hounds there, is caused by the quantity of lead taken into the stomach of the poor animals; and what gives us a greater desire to promote some attention to the subject is the fact that, not only the canine race, but the human also are sufferers, as in more than one case a species of paralysis, and effects similar to the painter's cholic, has attacked the attendants at the kennel, one of whom we believe one of her Majesty's whippers-in is now suffering from it.

Having presented these data, and traced, as far as possible, some probable cause for such casualties, we take leave of the subject with a sincere hope that, in the proper quarter, some investigation of a scientific character will be made *pro bono publico*.—*The Polytechnic Review.*

PICCADILLY AND GREEN PARK.—We are authorized to state, that the widening of Piccadilly and the constructing a fine spacious gravel-walk from the Duke of Devonshire's to Hyde Park-corner will be commenced without further delay. We understand that there is every probability of an ornamental fountain being placed in the waterworks basin, and various other improvements, of an ornamental character, are under the consideration of the Woods and Forests, which department, we are happy to state, under the able superintendence of Lord Lincoln, seems most anxious to carry out the wishes of the public in regard to beautifying our parks and gardens.—*British Queen.*

VAUXHALL IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. Cubitt has commenced the foundation for a splendid chain-pier on the Marquis of Westminster's Pimlico estate on Thames-bank, opposite St. George's-square. Part of the gas-works are to come down to complete the road now making from Vauxhall-bridge to Battersea-bridge. Mr. Cubitt has also opened a commodious road from Vauxhall-bridge, through Lincoln-place, Bessborough-place, Marlborough-square, Eccleston-square, Eaton-square, and Belgrave-square, to Albert-gate, at Knightsbridge. The works at Albert-gate have been suspended for some time, but will not be commenced forthwith.

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